
RE: Request: Community Bike & Traffic Safety Education Event at City Hall — May 2026

From DFP Staff <newsroom@dismalfreedompress.org>

Date Mon 4/13/2026 6:57 PM

To Stephen Sealy <ssealy@ci.lathrop.ca.us>

Chief Sealy,

Thank you for your April 2 response and for the detailed overview of LPD's 2026 bicycle safety programming. The May 16 Bicycle Safety School is exactly the kind of structured, resource-backed effort that Lathrop families need — and my offer to support it as a community partner stands.

I am writing today, however, because what has happened in the 40 days since my first outreach demands to be documented directly with you.

INCIDENT 1 — Mossdale Landing Elementary School

A near-miss involving my family occurred directly in front of Mossdale Landing Elementary during after-school program hours. The children who witnessed the incident were students enrolled in the after-school program — students who were unsupervised at the time because the staff member responsible for them was not present. When I asked the children to get a teacher, the staff member who came outside dismissed the situation, stating it was "probably an after school program issue." That response was not acceptable. I am formally filing a complaint with Manteca Unified School District regarding both the failure to supervise students and the staff's failure to respond appropriately to a witnessed safety emergency. This incident is now on record with the City as well.

INCIDENT 2 — Golden Spike Trail & Towne Centre Drive (April 13, 2026 — Today)

This afternoon, a group of middle or high school-aged students were obstructing traffic at the corner of Golden Spike Trail and Towne Centre Drive, physically blocking my family from passing. When we attempted to proceed, we were verbally assaulted by these students. A

INCIDENT 3 — Autumn Rain Drive & McKee Road

A Tesla driver drove around my child while my child was actively in the crosswalk at Autumn Rain Drive and McKee Road. I contacted the non-emergency line. Officer Siler followed up and took a statement. I appreciate Officer Siler's response — but this should never have

happened.

Chief Sealy, three documented incidents in 40 days is a pattern, not a streak of bad luck. I saw the Facebook video your department posted on distracted driving and hands-free laws, and I respect the effort. But one social media post is not a deterrent, and it does not reach the families who do not follow your page. The gap between what California law requires of drivers and what is actually happening on Lathrop streets is putting children in danger, and my family has repeatedly been in the middle of it.

I have reached out to the City Council. No one has responded.

I am not writing this to be adversarial. I am writing it because I intend to be at that May 16 event, I intend to help make it successful, and I believe you should know the conditions on the ground that make it necessary. My offer remains the same: a community partner table, Spanish-language outreach to families in the 95330 corridor who do not receive city communications in their language, and promotion to my existing sign-on list of Lathrop families who have already expressed interest in bicycle safety programming.

Could we confirm this week whether LPD can accommodate a partner table on May 16?

Respectfully,

Torie Cortez
Member, National Writers Union (NWU)
Member, Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ)
(209) 305-0823 Cell
(209) 425-2677 Newsroom

--

— DISMAL FREEDOM PRESS —

*An Investigative Newsroom of Rooted Creative
Group LLC*

Contact & Inquiries

Newsroom:

newsroom@dismalfreedompress.org <<mailto:newsroom@dismalfreedompress.org>> |

Tips: tips@dismalfreedompress.org <<mailto:tips@dismalfreedompress.org>>

Office: (209) 425-2677 | *Web:* dismalfreedom.press

<<https://dismalfreedom.press>>

Service Area: Central Valley & San Francisco Bay Area

Right of Reply (Stage C Safeguard)

DFP invites

relevant comment prior to publication to ensure accuracy and fairness.

Responses to reporter inquiries should be directed to the newsroom or the specific investigator assigned to the matter.

Transparency & Documentation

Consistent with DFP OPS Section 2, we prioritize

documentation over commentary. Source documents are published alongside reporting when lawful, verified, and safe.

Public Records Notice (CPRA / FOIA)

Communications with public agencies may be subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code § 7920.000 et seq.) or the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552). DFP maintains a disciplined records-building posture for all investigations.

Confidentiality & Security

This message is for the intended recipient(s).

If received in error, please notify the sender. DFP advises against transmitting passwords or highly sensitive personal data via unencrypted email. Use our Tip line for initial outreach regarding sensitive disclosures.

© 2026 Rooted Creative Group LLC dba Dismal Freedom Press. All rights reserved.